



Closer Than You Think 3 – Truth is Closer Than You Think Spiritual Formation Guide

We hope you'll use this guide to take the teaching from Sunday's service and reflect on it with a few friends or with a group. If you have questions or want to talk more about how to take a next spiritual step, contact us at info@wschurch.org.

Scripture:

"We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

John 1:14

"If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth."

1 John 1:8

"Remember those who taught you the word of God. Think of all the good that has come from their lives, and follow the example of their faith."

Hebrews 13:7

Reflection Questions:

- What is one thing that you know is true? (Don't overthink it – just share the first thing that comes to your mind.)
- What stood out to you from Sunday's service? How did you sense God at work in you through the songs, the message, and being together with others as part of the church? (The message main points and scripture are listed below if it helps you think back.)
- Eddie shared that, "Our impulse is to seek affirmation, not correction." Have you seen this to be true in your life? In others'?
- Read John 1:14. Eddie shared, "Truth exists in the Person of Jesus Christ and we can know the truth through him." How does this verse and quote challenge you? How does it comfort you?
- Read 1 John 1:8. Eddie invited us to say out loud, "I have a sin problem." He invited us to be honest about our susceptibility - speaking the truth in love to ourselves about ourselves. What does it feel like to say something like that out loud?
- Henry Cloud observed, "Spiritual transformation requires grace + truth + time." Which part of that equation do you need to embrace? How might you do that?
- In the sermon, Eddie offered three sources for us to trust:
 - Trust the Bible over your feelings. (Feelings are always real, but not always true.)
 - Trust the saints over celebrities.
 - Trust the church over culture.

Which of those do you need to hold onto this week?

- Read Hebrews 13:7. Who are some of the saints whose example and wisdom inspire you in your faith? Share some of their names and stories with one another.
- How do you need to embrace truth today? Get practical! Write some next steps down and share them with someone.

Looking for some ways to grow and be stretched spiritually? Check out our highlighted resources at www.wschurch.org/resources. These resources can be purchased using the links or are available for a small donation at the Next Steps area on Sunday mornings.

Message Main Points and Scripture:

- **We have a love/hate relationship with the truth.**
- John 18:38 - "What is truth?"
- **Believing everything is true is a shortcut to believing nothing is true.**
- **Our impulse is to seek affirmation, not correction.**
- John 1:14 - "We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."
- **If Jesus is full of truth, truth exists and we need it.**
- **The church in Ephesus was messy.**
- Ephesians 4:15 - "Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church."
- 1 John 1:8 - "If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth."
- **I have a sin problem.**
- **Self-awareness is a powerful asset for a believer.**
- Henry Cloud observed, "Spiritual transformation requires grace + truth + time."
- **Trust the Bible over your feelings.**
- John 17:17 - "Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth."
- 2 Peter 1:21 - "Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet's own understanding, or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God."
- **Feelings are always real, but not always true.**
- Matthew 7:24 - "Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock."
- **Trust the saints over celebrities.**
- Hebrews 13:7 - "Remember those who taught you the word of God. Think of all the good that has come from their lives, and follow the example of their faith."
- **Trust the church over culture.**
- 1 Timothy 3:15 - "This is the church of the living God, which is the pillar and foundation of the truth."